

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

ACCESSING INFORMATION USING AN INSTANT MESSAGING SYSTEM

- 5 A system and method for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to a third party application is shown. The method includes registering with a set of client messaging applications for sending and receiving messages. A message includes an information request. A message is received from the one of the client messaging applications and the destination of the message is determined.
- 10 The third party application determined to be the destination of the message is then selected and the message is transmitted to the third party application. In the event that the message included an information request, a return message is received from the third party application. The return message includes the requested information. The destination of the return message is determined. The client
- 15 messaging application determined to be the destination of the return message is selected and the return message is transmitted to the client messaging application.